

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FRANKF 03106 150710Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W
-----029720 160754Z /13

R 141425Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1623
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 3106

SY CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: THEFT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDS

1. ON APRIL 11, 1978 SPECIAL AGENT CLIFFORD SUTTON, U.S. ARMY FRANKFURT, CID, REPORTED TO THE RSO THAT THE COMMANDER OF SHAPE HAD DIRECTED CID TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE THEFT OF \$25,000 WORTH OF FRENCH FRANCS THAT HAD BEEN SENT FROM THE RFC PARIS TO SHAPE HQS., BRUSSELS.

2. THE CID AGENT REPORTED THAT A TOTAL OF 124,800 FRENCH FRANCS HAD BEEN PLACED IN A CARDBOARD MONEY BOX., WRAPPED IN BROWN PAPER, AND REGISTERED AS ITEM 10853. THE REGISTERED ITEM WAS THEN CONSIGNED WITH OTHER EMBASSY PARIS MAIL AND TRANSPORTED TO FRANKFURT BY DIPLOMATIC COURIER ESCORTED POUCH ON MARCH 25, 1978.

3. THE POUCH ARRIVED FRANKFURT ON MARCH 25. IT REMAINED SEALED AND UNATTENDED UNTIL MARCH 28. ON MARCH 28 THE POUCH WAS OPENED AND BROKEN DOWN FOR FURTHER ONWARD DISTRIBUTION.

4. THE REGISTERED ITEM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO THE
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APO FACILITIES ON OFFENBACH-FRANKFURT ON MARCH 29 FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO SHAPE, BELGIUM, UNDER THE MILITARY REGISTRY NO 10853. THE ITEM WAS RECEIPTED FOR AT OFFENBACH. RSO HAS COPY OF RECEIPT FORM.

5. ACCORDING TO CID AGENT SUTTON, WHEN THE PACKAGE ARRIVED AT SHAPRE HQS. IT WAS OPENED AND THE MONEY BOX WAS FOUND TO BE LACKING 120,800 FRENCH FRANCS.

THE MISSING MONEY HAD BEEN REPLACED BY AIR-PAC MATERIAL. THE WRAPPING MATERIAL USED BY PARIS STILL SECURED THE BOX; HOWEVER, IT APPEARED AS IF IT HAD BEEN OPENED AND RESEALED. ALL THAT REMAINED IN THE BOX WAS 4,000 FRENCH FRANCS IN COINAGE.

6. ACCORDING TO SUTTON A FORENSIC EXAMINATION IS BEING MADE ON THE PACKAGE, WRAPPING MATERIALS AND AIR-PAC MATERIAL. CID IS ALLEGED TO HAVE ISOLATED SEVERAL SUSPICIOUS FINGERPRINTS ON THE INSIDE FLAP OF THE WRAPPING MATERIAL.

7. RSO IS CONDUCTING A LOCAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE MATTER. THE INVESTIGATION WILL COVER THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY FOR THE REGISTERED ITEM WHILE IT WAS IN FRANKFURT; AN INTERVIEW OF ALL PERSONS WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE CLASSIFIED POUCH AREA FROM MARCH 25 TO MARCH 29; ALSO AN INTERVIEW WITH ALL THOSE WHO HANDLED THE POUCH. RSO WILL TURN OVER PAPER SAMPLE, AIR-PAC SAMPLES AND FINGERPRINTS OF INTERVIEWS TO CID FRANKFURT.

8. RSO WILL RENDER ALL REPORTS TO SAS AS FURTHER INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED. LEHMANN

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